

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
August 4 - 11, 2011

1. [Ambassador Rice at U.N. on Somalia, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan](#) (08-10-2011)
 2. [U.S. Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Horn of Africa](#) (08-10-2011)
 3. [Obama Approves \\$105 Million More for Horn of Africa](#) (08-08-2011)
 4. [U.S. Welcomes Stronger Arab Stand Against Syrian Violence](#) (08-08-2011)
 5. [Ambassador to Syria Ford's Interview on ABC's This Week](#) (08-07-2011)
 6. [Clinton Says Assad Regime Has Killed More Than 2,000 Since March](#) (08-05-2011)
 7. [State's Gottemoeller at Strategic Command Deterrence Symposium](#) (08-04-2011)
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1. [Ambassador Rice at U.N. on Somalia, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan](#) (08-10-2011)

Remarks by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the UN Security Council Stakeout on Somalia, Syria, Eritrea, and Sudan

Ambassador Rice: Just wanted to say a few things on the briefing today. This morning we had a very important briefing from SRSG Mahiga on Somalia. Also, a very disturbing humanitarian update from Catherine Bragg, of OCHA, and we are in the process of continuing that discussion behind closed doors in the Council consultations room. The United States underscored our strong support for the work of SRSG Mahiga, for the good work of AMISOM. And we're also very much committed to the Kampala Accord and its successful implementation. And we're looking to the TFIs to ensure that they meet their commitments by August of 2012.

On the humanitarian side, the United States is deeply, deeply concerned about the rapidly deteriorating situation. We heard today from Catherine Bragg that things are even more dire than when she last briefed last month. The United States remains the largest donor of bilateral assistance to the Horn of Africa emergency. We provided over 560 million dollars — 565 million dollars — this fiscal year alone, including an additional 105 million announced by the President earlier this week. And we will continue to be as active as we possibly can in support of the people of Somalia and the region. And we will also continue to encourage maximal international support for what is the worst famine and humanitarian crisis to strike Africa in 60 years, with some over 12 million people in Somalia and the region at immediate risk. So, this is one, as you have heard my President, Secretary of State, Dr. Jill Biden, and so many others say, that requires the full and immediate support and attention of the entire international community.

This afternoon, as you know, we will talk about Syria again. This is a follow on to the Presidential statement that we adopted last week, which was a clear and strong condemnation of the violence being perpetrated by the Assad regime. We think that violence has to stop. We are mindful of the fact and encouraged by the fact that there's now a growing chorus of international condemnation — the Security Council spoke last week, we have seen important statements from the GCC, from the Arab League, from King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. We've seen steps by Kuwait and Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to withdraw their Ambassadors, and we also have seen a very strong message that Turkey has delivered in the person of the Foreign Minister, most recently yesterday. And we hope very much that the delegation that's being sent by the IBSA countries will echo that very strong message that the violence has to stop — they need to pull back into barracks and be credible about this reform process, which, to date, they have absolutely failed to do. From the United States' point of view, we're going to continue and intensify our pressure both through our national actions and additional sanctions, as well as coordinated efforts with other partners here in New York and around the world.

Let me say one other thing before I take a couple of questions. I'm pleased to announce today that Ambassador Jeff DeLaurentis has joined — rejoined, in fact — our mission as our Ambassador for special political affairs — in other words, our Security Council Ambassador. Some of you may remember him from his distinguished tenure as our political coordinator. He comes to us from the State Department, where he was most recently the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Yes?

Reporter: (inaudible) I'd like to ask you your opinion about this idea (inaudible) have been voted such as appointing Special Representative of the SG to Syria? The other one is making Syria an item on the agenda, instead of discussing it under the Middle East? And also presenting an invitation to Navi Pillay to brief the Council?

Ambassador Rice: We're attracted to all those steps and other like steps that would elevate the profile of Syria on the Council agenda and bring the needed attention to this crisis that we think is long overdue. So we are working with partners on the Council on a range of ideas — among those, the ones you mentioned.

Reporter: What do you hope to achieve from bringing Navi Pillay over here? I mean, we know that a vote to establish a committee — a fact-finding committee — that Syria hasn't allowed them to go in, that Syria still stops all the humanitarian aid workers to enter...what do you hope to achieve?

Ambassador Rice: Let me be plain. From the United States point of view we always welcome timely reporting to the Council by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on all sorts of topics of concern. Now, foremost, at the present, is, of course, the situation in Syria. And we're frustrated that the Commission of Inquiry that was mandated by the Human Rights Council has been unable to do its work. That was a message that we tried to underscore in our Presidential statement last week. And we would certainly welcome Navi Pillay's input and perspective to inform our deliberations in the Council.

Reporter: Given that fact that President Assad doesn't seem to have reacted to Presidential statement (inaudible)...Do you think there is a move in the Council for branching out pressure and taking additional steps (inaudible)... is the United States taking steps that they're trying to get other Council members to take?

Ambassador Rice: Well, the United States acts both in the context of the Security Council and in our bilateral and other regional relationships. So we are working across the board to underscore that the behavior of Assad is absolutely unacceptable, he has lost any legitimacy to lead and we think it is past — it would be much, much better for the people of Syria, and Syria would be better off, without Assad. And we are looking to the future and looking to lend support to the people of Syria who have the same aspirations for freedom and democracy that we've seen in so many other parts of the world. So we'll continue our discussions and our efforts here in New York as well as elsewhere.

I am not... I am loath to predict how exactly the Council may respond in the future. I think Council members have been moved by what they have seen of late, in the intensifying and horrific violence against civilians. But we've also been frustrated, quite candidly, that it has taken the Council as long as it has to be able to speak with one voice. And we think that it's past time for all Council members to put the interests of the Syrian people, rather than particular bilateral issues or interests, at the forefront of their action, and for the Council to continue, as it did last week, with our strong support to deliver a very strong message that what is happening in Syria is unacceptable and it needs to be stopped.

Reporter: (inaudible)

Ambassador Rice: We've been very clear that, as I said, that Syria, in our judgment, would be better off without Assad, and that he's lost his legitimacy. But beyond that I don't have anything to add.

Reporter: (inaudible)...saying to President Assad...to step down? Are you calling on President Assad to step down?

Ambassador Rice: What I'm saying is that, in the view of the United States, he has lost his legitimacy to rule and Syria would be a better place without him.

Reporter: (inaudible)...my question actually...about the...Security Council...the message...is that the idea...action by the ICC for example? What action do you have in mind...what options?

Ambassador Rice: Well, that is a potential avenue, but, as you know, that requires the full support of the Council. And I think if we were talking about whether that would be forthcoming today, I would have to say, quite candidly, I doubt it. But there are other avenues, there are other investigations, there's the one we've just discussed with the Human Rights Council. And certainly, from the United States point of view, and that of others, to the extent that we have evidence of crimes we would share that quite readily with any in a position to investigate.

Reporter: On Somalia, it is said that the U.S. is seeking additional sanctions against Eritrea. Is that true? And if so, why? And on human rights reporting, are you frustrated that the South Kordofan human rights report hasn't yet been released by the UN? And what should the UN be doing about those people in South Kordofan?

Ambassador Rice: The United States is very, very concerned about Eritrea's behavior in the region. Its support for Al-Shabaab, its support to destabilize its neighbors is documented quite thoroughly and persuasively in the report of the special panel. We heard during the session last month from virtually all of Eritrea's neighbors that they face a pattern of destabilization that is quite troubling and quite disturbing. Moreover, we're profoundly troubled and we have clearly condemned the support that Eritrea lent to the terrorist attack that was planned for — to coincide with the African Union summit last January in Addis Ababa. We think that's an absolutely abhorrent development,

and we think it merits the full attention of the Council. Yes, the United States is very much interested in additional pressure and sanctions being applied on Eritrea. This is something that we'll continue to discuss and debate in the Security Council. But from the U.S. point of view, we think that that is timely.

Reporter: ...is there a famine in Eritrea? The idea of imposing sanctions ...

Ambassador Rice: Well, first of all, any measures to be contemplated would be carefully targeted and would not go in any way to harm the people of Eritrea, who are suffering enough as it is. We believe there is a famine in Eritrea, but we're deeply concerned that none of us know because they have barred UN agencies, barred NGOs. It has become a black hole in terms of governance and humanitarian ground truth. And the people of Eritrea, who must...most likely are suffering the very same food shortages that we're seeing throughout the region are being left to starve because there is not access, there's a clear cut denial of access by the government of Eritrea of food and other humanitarian support for its people. Thank you.

On Kordofan, let me just say — yes, we're looking forward to the release of the report that we requested back in June. We think that it's important for the United Nations — whether it's through its dwindling presence on the ground or through the human rights agencies and authorities — to give us, the member states, as clear a picture as they can of the unfolding humanitarian circumstances in Southern Kordofan, and to provide insight and investigate the allegations of abuses.

Thank you.

2. U.S. Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Horn of Africa (08-10-2011)

More than 12.4 million people — primarily in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia — are in need of emergency assistance in the Horn of Africa. The United States is deeply concerned by the humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa, the famine that is underway in parts of Somalia, and the escalating refugee crisis across the region. A large-scale international response is underway to prevent the further decline of an already dire situation, but there will be no quick fix. The U.S. is the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to the region. This week's White House announcement of approximately \$105 million in additional life-saving humanitarian assistance for the region brings the U.S. government total this fiscal year to about \$565 million to help those in need. This funding supports humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other drought affected populations. Because emergency assistance will not solve the underlying long-term problems in the region, the U.S. government is also working on comprehensive responses, such as through the President's Feed the Future initiative.

Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and other Drought Affected Populations: Reports from inside Somalia indicate the situation is growing increasingly desperate. The \$565 million the U.S. government is providing includes assistance for refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. Much of this assistance was previously planned for the region to meet continuing critical humanitarian needs. The total U.S. government assistance to the region also includes funding for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' recent Emergency Appeal for Somali refugees. Our diplomacy and our dollars leverage other donor support for international protection and assistance efforts. These efforts are critical to saving lives and maintaining access to safe asylum in Somalia's neighboring countries, even as they themselves struggle with a drought that has been described as the worst in 60 years.

The U.S. government assistance is also being provided for health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. The U.S. government is funding nutrition programs that treat malnutrition and support community-based education. The U.S. is working to address the immediate lifesaving needs of affected populations while also building communities' resiliency to future shocks.

Food Security: Part of our funding will benefit those in need of food assistance in Ethiopia and Kenya. Our assistance will allow WFP to expand geographic coverage and scale up feeding programs in drought-affected areas in Ethiopia and Kenya. In total, the United States is providing approximately \$400 million in humanitarian food aid to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia this fiscal year.

The U.S.-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), which the United States supports, have maintained a strong presence in the region for decades, enabling the humanitarian community to identify conditions based on an extensive analysis of historical and current rainfall, cropping patterns, livestock health, market prices and malnutrition rates. FEWS NET's early warning of the crisis in the Horn of Africa has allowed the United States to alert other donors and to make sizeable, early food aid contributions and scale up emergency programs to meet the increasing needs in the region.

Feed the Future: President Obama's Feed the Future initiative — which helps address the root causes of hunger and undernutrition — is critical at this time. Increasing the resiliency and further developing the capacity of pastoralists to engage in a commercially viable livestock trade is crucial to breaking the disaster cycle across the Horn. By working with other donors and governments in the region, Feed the Future will increase overall agricultural production as well as increase the resiliency of pastoralists who suffer most acutely from the effects of the drought.

For example, Ethiopia's Feed the Future program emphasizes improving early warning systems, disaster risk management, and livelihoods in pastoralist and agriculture areas. Feed the Future will invest in Ethiopia's Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative. This program has increased the value and sales of livestock by improving livestock health services, institutionalizing early warning and response, and improving land and water management. At the regional level, East Africa's Livestock Trade program focuses on the trade of live animals, increasing the quality and availability of trade information, improving animal health, and building capacity for private sector trade groups.

Total Current U.S. Government Funding for Humanitarian Assistance to Horn of Africa		
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount (In Millions)</i>
SOMALIA		
Implementing Partners that Specialize in Emergency Operations	Agriculture, Food Security, Economic Recovery, Health, Coordination and Information, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	\$19.8
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	International Development Assistance, Emergency Food Assistance for Drought-Affected Areas.	\$60.4

KENYA		
The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Implementing Partners that Specialize in Emergency Operations	Agriculture, Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Studies, and Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.	\$15.7
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance for Drought-Affected Areas, Emergency Food Assistance for Refugees.	\$128.2
International NGOs and Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Support for Refugee Protection and Assistance	\$39.9
ETHIOPIA		
U.N. Department of Safety and Security, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF, WFP, and international and local NGOs that specialize in emergency operations.	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.	\$26.2
WFP	Food Assistance for Refugees, Relief Food Assistance for Drought-Affected Areas	\$140.7
Catholic Relief services (CRS)/Joint Emergency Operations	Relief Food Assistance	\$64.3
International NGOs and UNHCR	Refugee Protection and Assistance	\$28.6
DJIBOUTI		
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	\$4.8
UNHCR	Refugee Protection and Assistance	\$0.9
REGIONAL FUNDING		
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance	\$19.0
UNHCR	Health Care and Shelter	\$6.0
International Organizations (IOs)	Emergency food rations, therapeutic feeding, basic health care, and water, sanitation, and hygiene.	\$10.0
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE HORN OF AFRICA IN FY2011		\$564.5

3. Obama Approves \$105 Million More for Horn of Africa (08-08-2011)

By MacKenzie C. Babb
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama has approved an additional \$105 million for urgent humanitarian relief efforts across the Horn of Africa, where the United Nations estimates that more than 12.4 million people are in urgent need as a result of the region's worst drought in more than 60 years.

The additional funding was announced by the White House August 8. It said the money will go toward funding "the urgently needed food, health, shelter, water and sanitation assistance to those who desperately need help" across the region. U.S. officials say the Horn of Africa faces widespread crop failure, livestock mortality and increased food prices.

The announcement of increased aid came as Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, and Dr. Rajiv Shah, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), landed in Kenya for a trip to underscore the continued U.S. commitment to assisting "the people of the Horn of Africa during this urgent time of need and to investing in long-term solutions to hunger and food insecurity in the region."

The White House said August 8 that Biden will meet with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga "to discuss how the United States can work with international partners on the best response to this crisis."

The United Nations says Somalia has been hardest hit by the crisis, with famine now affecting five regions across the country and threatening to spread. USAID estimates that more than 600,000 Somalis have fled to neighboring countries, many walking for weeks to refugee camps in search of food and water in a migration that has put additional strain on drought-affected areas of Kenya and Ethiopia.

The U.N. Refugee Agency said August 8 that it had landed an aircraft in Somalia's capital containing emergency aid to help thousands of people. The operation was the agency's first in five years to conflict-ridden Mogadishu.

USAID said the United States is the world's largest donor of emergency assistance to the Horn of Africa, helping more than 4.6 million people in need. The White House said in 2011, the United States has provided \$565 million in humanitarian assistance to the region, and will continue helping people in need as they seek assistance.

4. U.S. Welcomes Stronger Arab Stand Against Syrian Violence (08-08-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration welcomed increased pressure on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime from his neighbors in the Middle East as a sign that Syria's rulers are increasingly isolating themselves from the international community as a result of their brutal crackdown on peaceful demonstrators calling for political reforms.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said August 8 that the United States is “encouraged and heartened” by strong statements from the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on August 7 and August 6, respectively, that expressed alarm over the Assad regime’s actions and called for an end to the violence.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain have announced that they are recalling their ambassadors from Damascus.

“These are further signs that the international community ... is repulsed by the brutal actions of the Syrian government and is standing with the Syrian people,” and “that President Assad and his government are further isolating themselves from the international community through their actions,” Toner said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said August 4 that the Obama administration estimates that [the Assad regime has killed more than 2,000 Syrians](#) since the demonstrations began in March. The United States has enacted unilateral sanctions targeting the Syrian leadership and affiliated businesses, and Clinton called for countries with closer ties to Syria to join the United States in taking action and creating “a much louder, more effective chorus of voices that are putting pressure on the Assad regime.”

Toner said Assad’s “neighbors and other powerful countries and voices in the region” need to be involved, not just the United States and the United Nations, to bring enough pressure against Assad to make him end the violence and mass arrests.

The United States is beginning to see broader international pressure coalescing around Syria. Toner said the Arab League and GCC had issued “strong statements decrying the violence.” Coupled with the recall of the Saudi, Kuwaiti and Bahraini ambassadors, “the message is becoming clearer and clearer to Assad that he has fewer and fewer friends,” he said.

“What Assad will do with that message remains to be seen. He’s talked again about reforms while at the same time ... carrying out armored attacks continuing in Hama as well as now Deir ez-Zor. So it’s not encouraging,” Toner said.

Secretary Clinton spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu August 7 and thanked him for his upcoming visit to Syria and for Turkey’s role in helping to address the crisis, including its assistance to Syrian refugees who have fled the violence.

According to Toner, Clinton told Davutoğlu that the Obama administration wants Syria to “immediately return its military to barracks and release all prisoners of concern.”

“She asked the foreign minister to reinforce these messages with the Syrian government. She also discussed American support for a transition to democracy in Syria,” Toner said August 7.

U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford told ABC Television’s This Week that the Assad regime “is using a great deal more violence than was used in Egypt” by former President Hosni Mubarak against the demonstrations that ended his regime.

In an August 4 interview, Ford said U.S. officials see Assad and his regime as the source of instability and violence in Syria and that President Obama has said the Assad regime “will be left in the past.”

“We have said, and we’ve been very clear on this, we do not view Bashar al-Assad as indispensable. We do not view his continuation in power as important to American interests,” Ford said.

Ford was criticized by Syrian authorities for undertaking [a visit to the besieged city of Hama](#) in July. He told ABC that it is important for foreign diplomats to be able to travel in Syria in order to “bear witness to what the Syrian government is doing.”

The Assad regime has largely barred independent media outlets from the country. Ford said the state-owned Syrian television service “is not credible and tells all kinds of lies.”

For example, Syrian television has reported armed gangs in Hama, while “the only weapon I saw was a slingshot,” Ford said.

He said it is important to relay a message of support to the Syrian people, and U.S. diplomats are looking for ways to reach out through Facebook and other social media outlets.

In his conversations with the Syrian people, Ford said, he has found that despite the violence being inflicted by armed security forces against unarmed demonstrators, the people were “very clear” in saying they do not want the United States to intervene militarily to stop the violence.

“I want to underline that. They did not want American military intervention,” Ford said.

The Obama administration will continue to look at additional unilateral measures it can take to pressure the Assad regime, as well as “measures that we can work with partners to get the Syrian government to stop shooting protesters, to release political prisoners and to stop these arrest campaigns,” he said.

5. Ambassador to Syria Ford’s Interview on ABC’s This Week (08-07-2011)

Ambassador Robert Ford with Christiane Amanpour of ABC’s This Week
August 4, 2011
Washington, D.C.

QUESTION: And this morning, news that Asad’s forces are trampling another Syrian town. The best response the world has come up with so far is a United Nations statement condemning the violence and the U.S. trying to ratchet up sanctions. America’s ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford, has been sent back there, having been drawn back here for urgent consultations. I met him at the State Department just before he left.

Do they consider you an enemy of the state in Syria?

AMBASSADOR FORD: They’re certainly angry with my trip to Hama. They were very angry about that. I don’t particularly care because we have to show our solidarity with peaceful protesters. I’d do it again tomorrow if I had to. I’m going to keep moving around the country. I can’t stop.

QUESTION: Do you fear, given that Hama in 1982 was the site of tens of thousands of deaths there by the regime, are you worried that that could happen now –

AMBASSADOR FORD: Yes.

QUESTION: -- and that is happening now?

AMBASSADOR FORD: I mean, literally, dozens of people have been killed in the last week. I'm personally very nervous about the fate of some of the people I met. I fear that they're either now under arrest or may be dead.

QUESTION: The violence continues despite the U.S. sanctions and the statement by the UN this week, so I asked the ambassador: Will Asad really feel the pressure from these moves?

How much leverage, though, does the United States have? It doesn't have many industries there. Unlike with Egypt, you don't have military-to-military or security cooperation.

AMBASSADOR FORD: First of all, there is just the power, the reputation of the United States. When I visited Hama, that was a statement and it got international attention that the American ambassador would go there. That's leverage.

In addition, because we have targeted specific individuals and worked with partners, especially in Europe, we are seeing some of those individuals and other people who fear being named on sanctions lists coming to us and saying maybe I need to rethink what I have been doing.

QUESTION: Well, let me ask you about that strategy. You're clearly bypassing the Syrian Government in that you're not speaking to state television; you're using social media, Facebook. You and your spokespeople have used very harsh, one might say undiplomatic, language to condemn the violence. What is your strategy –

AMBASSADOR FORD: I'd like to call it frank talk, Christiane.

QUESTION: What is your strategy?

AMBASSADOR FORD: My whole purpose in being in Syria is to be able to communicate not only with the Syrian Government but with the Syrian people more generally. I will be very frank again: The Syrian television operated by the state, operated by the dictatorship, is not credible and tells all kinds of lies. So we are looking for ways to reach out to the Syrian public through social media, through things like Facebook, and by going out and about in the country.

QUESTION: So you're going to keep tweaking them. You're going to keep waving sort of the red flag in front of the bull in the way you can.

AMBASSADOR FORD: It's important to bear witness to what the Syrian Government is doing. In that kind of environment, where the international press, international television, can't move around freely, it is really important for diplomats to be able to move around, to understand what the Syrian Government is doing on the ground. The Syrian Government does not tell the truth. They said there were armed gangs in Hama. Well, the only weapon I saw was a slingshot. So it's important to bear witness and it's important to relay a message of support.

QUESTION: You want change on the ground. Do you want Asad out?

AMBASSADOR FORD: We have said he has lost his legitimacy. But in the end, Christiane, it doesn't really matter as much what we say or what the international community says as what the Syrian people say and what the Syrian people do.

QUESTION: It seems obvious what the Syrian people want: They want a democratic transition and they want the fall of this regime. The President of the United States, Barack Obama, called on a longtime U.S. ally, Hosni Mubarak, to leave. He's not doing that to not such an ally and somebody who's committing much more violence, Bashar al-Asad. Should the President of the United States say that it is time for Bashar al-Asad to step down?

AMBASSADOR FORD: Well, you're absolutely right that Bashar al-Asad is using a great deal more violence than was used in Egypt. We have said – and we've been very clear on this – we do not view Bashar al-Asad as indispensable. We do not view his continuation in power as important to American interests. We have said we view him and his government as the source of instability and the source of violence in Syria. I think our views are very clear. The President has said his government will be left in the past. The meaning is clear, Christiane.

QUESTION: Many Americans watching this unfolding say, well, look, the United States joined a coalition of a no-fly zone, a military intervention in Libya, for instance. There's no such thing on the horizon for Syria. Can you explain that?

AMBASSADOR FORD: The Libyan situation is very different from what we have in Syria. Probably the first and foremost thing in my discussions moving around the country and talking to people, even in Hama where there's this atrocity going on right now, even in Hama when I talk to people there, "What do you think about what the Americans should do, the international community," they were very clear, Christiane. They did not want American military intervention. I want to underline that. They did not want American military intervention.

QUESTION: What is the United States going to do to ratchet up the pressure to try to influence what's happening there?

AMBASSADOR FORD: Well, we are going to try to ratchet up the pressure. The violence that the Syrian Government is inflicting on Syrian protestors, from our point of view, is grotesque, it's abhorrent – not just from our point of view, from the point of view of the entire international community. And so we are looking at additional unilateral measures, but also measures that we can work with partners to get the Syrian Government to stop shooting protestors, to release political prisoners, and to stop these arrest campaigns.

QUESTION: Ambassador, thank you very much for joining us.

AMBASSADOR FORD: My pleasure.

QUESTION: And you can hear more of what Ambassador Ford had to say about America's attempts to ramp up that pressure on Syria online at abcnews.com/thisweek.

6. Clinton Says Assad Regime Has Killed More Than 2,000 Since March (08-05-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration estimates that the Syrian government is responsible for the death of at least 2,000 of its citizens since demonstrators began calling for greater political freedoms in March, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

In her August 4 remarks with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird in Washington, Clinton said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has “lost his legitimacy to govern the Syrian people.” She urged more countries to join with the United States in trying to increase pressure on Assad’s regime to end the violence against its people and allow real democratic reforms.

“We think to date, the government is responsible for the deaths of more than 2,000 people of all ages, and the United States has worked very hard to corral and focus international opinion to take steps toward a unified response to the atrocities that are occurring,” Clinton said.

“Sometimes you lose sight of the incredible tragedy unfolding on the streets by just looking at the numbers, which are so numbing, but the shooting death of a 1-year-old recently by the Syrian regime’s tanks and troops is a very stark example of what is going on,” she said.

Clinton said the Obama administration is committed to increasing the pressure on Syria, including through additional financial sanctions.

On August 4, the U.S. Treasury Department announced it had prohibited U.S. persons and businesses from engaging in financial or commercial transactions with Syrian parliamentarian and businessman Muhammad Hamsho, as well as his company, Hamsho International Group. The designation also froze any U.S. assets held by Hamsho and his company. The Obama administration has similarly sanctioned President Assad, his brother Mahir al-Assad, and other senior Syrian leaders and businesses with close ties to the regime in response to their violent crackdown against Syrian demonstrators.

“Muhammad Hamsho earned his fortune through his connections to regime insiders, and during the current unrest, he has cast his lot with Bashar al-Assad, Mahir al-Assad and others responsible for the Syrian government’s violence and intimidation against the Syrian people,” Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen said in an August 4 Treasury Department press release. “The sanctions we are applying today to Hamsho and his company are the direct consequence of his actions.”

The press release added that members of the Syrian business community credit Hamsho’s business success to his close ties to Syria’s ruling elite, and charged that he paid large sums of money to secure his seat in parliament.

Clinton wants to see a broad international coalition speaking out against the violence in Syria and joining the United States in taking action.

“Frankly, we don’t have a lot of business with Syria. We need to get Europeans and others. We need to get the Arab states. We need to get a much louder, more effective chorus of voices that are putting pressure on the Assad regime, and we’re working to obtain that,” she said.

Foreign Minister Baird said the Assad regime’s behavior toward its people has been “abhorrent” and “absolutely disgraceful,” and he echoed Clinton’s call for more countries to pressure the regime to end the violence.

“Regrettably, we don’t have the same amount of international support at the U.N. for this, so I think in the absence of that, what we’ve got to continue to do is to work with like-minded allies,” Baird said. “There’s no country, I think, who can single-handedly tackle this challenge. We’ve got to work aggressively with others.”

On August 3, the [U.N. Security Council approved a presidential statement](#) condemning the Assad regime's violation of human rights and its use of force against its people. Clinton welcomed the move, saying it was a sign that "other governments, other people's voices are starting to be heard, and we think that's essential."

The secretary said the statement is "the first step of what we hope will be continuing steps to try to unite the world in both our rhetorical outrage" and in "actions that will send a very clear message to the Assad regime, the insiders there, that there's a price to pay for this kind of abuse and attacks on their own people."

U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice told reporters August 3 that the Security Council statement had been "long overdue," but it was "important and strong."

"Finally we were able to speak with one voice in clearly condemning the violence perpetrated against civilians by the Syrian government and call for a halt to the violence and insist that what has transpired is utterly unacceptable," she said.

Rice said the United States had strongly supported a resolution that would have imposed penalties on the Assad regime, but said it was important that the statement had given "a clear and unified condemnation" of the regime's actions.

"We didn't want a split Council and we didn't want a weak statement," she said.

"Hopefully, the people of Syria will get the sense that there are many in the international community, including in the Security Council, who are deeply concerned, profoundly troubled by the violence, who see their efforts and their peaceful protest as just. And the government will hopefully also be chastened by the strength and the unity of the condemnation," Rice said.

[7. State's Gottemoeller at Strategic Command Deterrence Symposium \(08-04-2011\)](#)

Remarks by Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, U.S. Strategic Command 2011 Deterrence Symposium, Omaha, Nebraska

21st Century Deterrence Challenges

Thank you so much for having me here today. It is always a pleasure to visit STRATCOM and I am honored to be speaking to such a distinguished group of policy and military leaders. Thank you, General Kehler, for the invitation: It is a great opportunity for me. I know that many of my colleagues from the interagency have already spoken to you, so I will do my best not to repeat them, but rather supplement and expand on what they discussed.

I was a speaker at this Symposium last summer and I am pleased to report that a lot has changed since last August. Last fall, the State Department underwent some structural reorganization and the Bureau of Verification, Compliance and Implementation became the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance or AVC for short.

AVC leads the Department's work on arms control, in areas of policy-making, negotiations, treaty implementation, and the Department's efforts with respect to missile defense, national security space policy, as well as multilateral arms control and disarmament policy.

The new name for my Bureau is more than just a matter of semantics. These changes represent a stronger and more comprehensive approach to arms control and they put us in a better position to carry out the President's priorities in these areas.

New thinking and innovation is already paying dividends in another area that has changed since the last time I was here.

New START Treaty Implementation

As you all know, the New START Treaty entered into force on February 5th of this year.

The New START Treaty implementation is so far going well. It's been a bright spot in the U.S.-Russian relationship, and we see it continuing to be an area for positive cooperation.

So far, the process of Treaty implementation has been very pragmatic, business-like, and positive — a continuation of the working relationship we established during the negotiations in Geneva. We are constantly in communication with our Russian colleagues and the implementation process has been precise and efficient.

Negotiators worked hard to find innovative new mechanisms to aid in the verification of this Treaty and the results of that work are already evident. The regime is simpler and safer to implement and, at the same time, it lessens disruptions to the day-to-day operations of both sides' strategic forces.

On-site inspections have begun and as of today, the United States and Russia together have conducted eight inspections. We are keeping par with each other.

For the first time, we are receiving data about actual re-entry vehicle (warhead) loadings on Russia's missiles and they receive the same data from us; on-site inspection procedures under New START allow the United States to confirm the actual number of warheads on any randomly selected Russian ICBM and SLBM. This verification task and inspection right did not exist under the START Treaty.

Last March, the United States conducted exhibitions of its B-1B and B-2A heavy bombers and the Russian Federation conducted an exhibition of its RS-24 ICBM and associated mobile launcher. That was the first time we had a chance to see the RS-24, the new Russian mobile missile with multiple warheads.

Just two weeks ago, we passed the 1,000th notification between the United States and the Russian Federation under the New START Treaty. These notifications help to track movement and changes in the status of systems, , including, for example, the notification of every time a heavy bomber is moved out of its home country for more than 24 hours.

In addition, every six months we exchange a comprehensive database. This gives us a full accounting of exactly where weapons systems are located, whether they are out of their deployment or operational bases and gone to maintenance, or have been retired. This semi-annual exchange, along with the continuous updates and mandatory treaty notifications provide, create a "living document," a comprehensive look into each other's strategic nuclear forces.

The New START Treaty data exchanges are providing us with a more detailed picture of Russian strategic forces than we were able to obtain from earlier exchanges and the inspections will give us crucial opportunities to confirm the validity of that data. Of course, reciprocal rights apply to the

Russian side. Finally, both of us back up the verification regime with our own National Technical Means of verification, our satellites and other monitoring platforms.

We've found that concerns regarding New START verification measures during the Senate ratification debate are being assuaged. Our experience so far is demonstrating that the New START Treaty's verification regime works, and will help to push the door open to new, more intrusive inspections involving warheads or other smaller items of account. Such inspections will be crucial to any future nuclear reduction plans.

Now let's look to the next steps.

Next Steps in U.S.-Russian Reductions

You've heard from my colleagues about the Defense Department's assessment effort and the DDPR: We obviously are in the midst of some important homework exercises. I won't repeat what others have said, but I will add a few thoughts.

While we still have much homework to do, we and the Russians can begin talking about some big concepts, important ideas and the definitions that go with them. We are not ready for the negotiating table, but we are ready for a productive conversation.

The United States has made it clear that we are committed to continuing a step-by-step process to reduce the overall number of nuclear weapons, including the pursuit of a future agreement with Russia for broad reductions in all categories of nuclear weapons — strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed. The President communicated this continued commitment in Prague when he signed the New START Treaty in April 2010.

Indeed, the preamble to the New START Treaty called upon both the U.S. and Russia to pursue further reductions. As part of this process, the President supports the Senate's call in the New START Resolution of Ratification to seek to initiate follow-on negotiations with Russia that include non-strategic nuclear weapons within one year of the Treaty's entry into force.

In addition to the conceptual conversation I mentioned above, we would also like to increase transparency on a reciprocal basis with Russia. We are in the process of thinking through how this and other such transparency measures might be implemented. This involves thinking through issues and questions including:

- Exactly what kinds of information do we think would be useful and appropriate to share and to seek from each other?
- How much detail are we prepared to share regarding numbers, types, and locations of weapons and related infrastructure?
- What classes and types of nuclear weapons should be included?
- What transparency measures should we consider for the total stockpile, in addition to non-strategic nuclear weapons?
- For the United States, what is the best way to consult with Allies on their views to the extent any transparency measures would involve items located on their territories?
- What are the legal mechanisms necessary to permit the sharing of sensitive information?

We will consult with our NATO allies and invite Russia to join with us to develop an initiative, including examination of potential reciprocal actions that could be taken in parallel by the United States and Russia.

Our conversation with Russia must include defining what exactly constitutes a non-strategic nuclear weapon and whether or not a single overall limit on all nuclear weapons would be possible. We have a lot of very complicated issues to consider, so the more creative and innovative ideas we have to work with, the better off we will be. For that reason, we are grateful to the community of experts, both government and nongovernment, American, Russian, and international, who are contributing to our work.

Beyond U.S. and Russian Reductions

While the United States and Russia have more steps to pursue bilaterally, it is also time to begin a multilateral dialogue within the P5, as well.

I travelled to Paris last month for a conference where the P5 discussed transparency, verification, and confidence-building measures. The conference was a constructive step in the process of nuclear-weapons states' engagement on disarmament and related issues, and demonstrated the P5's commitment to the implementation of the Action Plan that was adopted by consensus at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

All the P5 states recognized the fundamental importance of transparency in building mutual understanding and confidence. We exchanged information on nuclear doctrine and capabilities and considered possible voluntary transparency and confidence-building measures. To this end, we approved the creation of a working group on Nuclear Definitions and Terminology. We will also hold technical consultations on verification issues later this year in London.

In order to ensure that these conferences evolve into a regular process of P5 dialogue, we agreed to hold a third conference in the context of the 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee to continue our discussions.

The United States is proud to be at the leading edge of transparency efforts — publically declaring our nuclear stockpile numbers; participating in voluntary and treaty-based inspections measures; and working with other nations on military to military, scientific and lab exchanges, and site visits.

We hope that all countries will join in the common effort to increase transparency and build mutual confidence. Confidence-building, at its very core, is a shared effort.

Conclusion

This entire process of next steps in arms control will require some big ideas and some out-of-the-box thinking and we are glad to be engaging the STRATCOM community in this process.

We have seen an evolution in nuclear policy thinking over the past sixty-five years, from policies of massive retaliation to strategies of nuclear war-fighting to our current conversations on strategic stability and predictability.

It is absolutely imperative that we continue to adapt and evolve our thinking to match the circumstances around us. Anticipating and preparing for changes in deterrence will be necessary for the continued security of our nation.

Thanks again for your time and attention.